Who we are

The Lower Columbia region's historic houses, buildings, and structures are important assets that contribute to the area's history, architecture, culture, identity, livability and sense of place, and must be retained.

The purpose of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society is to preserve, protect, and promote the historic houses and buildings in the Lower Columbia region of Oregon and Washington.

The Lower Columbia Preservation Society is an Oregon 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with event coordination. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering, or have an idea for the next LCPS event!

Contact Us

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LOWER COLUMBIA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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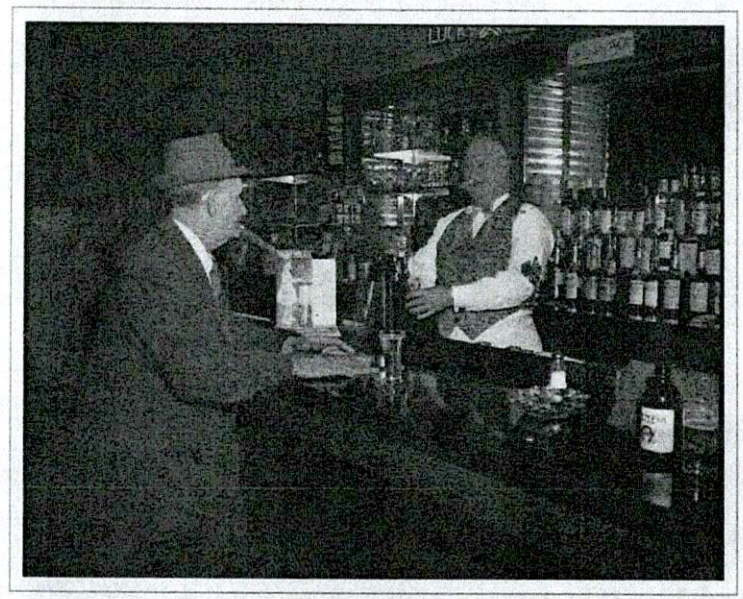
Uniontown Historic Pub Crawl



LOWER COLUMBIA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Pubs of Uniontown-Alameda Historic District

It is a bit ironic for us to be participating in a pub crawl in Uniontown, as this area of Astoria has had a historically contentious relationship with booze. In 1904, Finns used Oregon's local option law to vote Astoria's First Ward, consisting mostly of Uniontown, dry. Saloon keepers closed up shop or moved businesses elsewhere. All three of the pubs we will tour today started out as cafes, and became taverns once prohibition had ended. Also, all three of them are relatively modest in size and have living quarters upstairs. This speaks to the working class neighborhood and era in which they were built.

What does the Columbia River have in common with a salmon? They each have "Finns" on both sides.

Columbia River Coffee Roaster/ 3 Cups (1923)

279 W. Marine Dr.

The Finnish Meat Market was incorporated in 1911 to serve the Finnish community. This new building was designed by John Wicks for the market. It remained the Finnish Meat Market until 1950 when it was later home to a plumber shop.

Doughboy Soldiers Monument (1926)

Designed by a Canadian architect, C.T. Diamond, the monument is the only public bathroom on the National Register of Historic Places.

Union Town Apartments (ca. 1896)

286 W. Marine Dr.

Originally known as the John Erickson Boarding House and later as the Karhuvaara Boarding House, this building housed many tenants over the years. Meals were offered in communal eating areas and the single fishermen tenants became like an extended family. This building caught fire when the Finnish Socialist Hall next door burned down in 1923.

Other Sites of Interest Nearby

Soumi Hall Finnish Brotherhood (1893)

244 W. Marine Dr.

Originally constructed by volunteers of the Finnish Temperance Society for a gathering and entertainment facility. Aiming to draw fishermen from bars into more socialized activities. Originally located on the SW corner of Alameda and Columbia streets. The hall was moved to a more central location on W Marine Dr. in 1910. At this time it was enlarged with a second story and doubled in width. The hall was purchased in 1934 by the Finnish Brotherhood. At one time, it housed a tavern in its first floor.

Uniontown Bath House (1928)

285-287 W. Marine Dr.

Designed by J. Wicks, the Union Steam Baths were built by Kaarlo Koskelo, winner of the Gold Medal in wrestling in Finland in 1912.

Uniontown Curfew Bell (1904)

Directly NW of Fire Station No. 2. Rung for many years to remind people of the curfew. Placed in this location on September 15, 1978. The curfew was 8pm in the winter and 9pm in the summer for minors.

Worker's Tavern (1926)

283 W. Marine Dr.

Designed by J. Wicks, this building housed Mac Marrs Grocery in 1931. it is not known what establishment first occupied this space. In 1933 William Stills opened Workers Club.

Finnish Meat Market, Worker's Club and Union Baths during construction of Astoria-Megler bridge.

Employees standing outside of Worker's Cafe.

Triangle Tavern (ca. 1915)

222 W. Marine Dr.

In 1915 this building was a barber shop owned by Thomas & Alice Victorson. In 1917, they expanded business and also opened the Victorson Cafe. In 1934, the name was changed to Triangle Tavern. When visiting the Triangle Tavern, do not miss the display of historic photographs on the right back wall next to the pool table. The Triangle is celebrating 100 years this year!

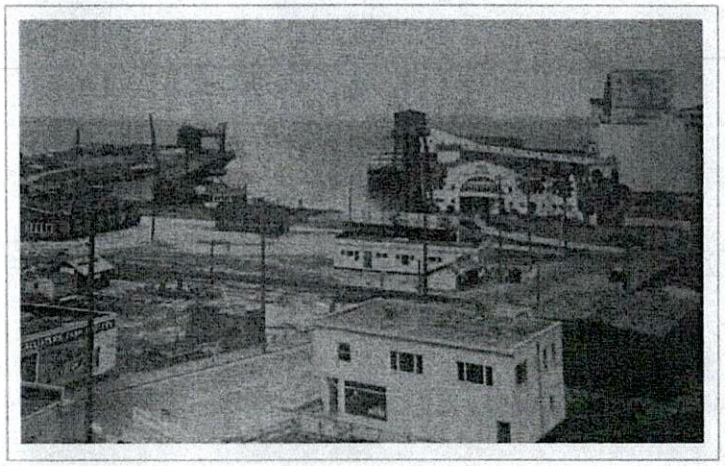
Note the two main entrance doors in this photo. One led to a one-stool barber shop, while the other led into the Triangle Cafe.

The Portway (1923)

422 W. Marine Dr.

Built in 1923, the Jarvinen family resided in the building and Victor Jarvinen operated a blacksmith shop in the back. The family opened the cafe on the first floor and lived on the second.

In 1925 Victor Jarvinen opened the Portway Cafe. In 1934 the name was changed to the Blue Peter Restaurant with Portway Machine Shop in the back. In 1936, the name of the business changed again, to Portway Beer Parlor. Victor Jarvinen's son, "Portway Paul" ran the tavern for over 50 years. Whenever a tab was paid off by a customer he would buy the house a round.



This photo of the port has The Portway in the foreground.